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MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY  
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Increased Collection, Analysis, and Reporting on  
Activities in Nicaragua (S)

The recent National Intelligence Estimate (NIE 83.3-85), "Nicaragua: Prospects for Sandinista Consolidation," is an important and well prepared document. Your staff, and all those who had a hand in its preparation, should be complimented on a job well done. (S)

The analysis in NIE 83.3-85 makes it clear that the Sandinistas are receiving considerable assistance from the Soviet Union, Cuba, and other bloc/radical states as they move toward consolidating as a Marxist-Leninist state. The NIE also points to the steadily increasing involvement of extra-hemispheric powers in Nicaragua and to the Sandinistas' unabated support for the FMLN in El Salvador and other insurgent/terrorist organizations aimed at subverting other states in the region. The activities of the Soviets, their surrogates, and other radical entities in Nicaragua significantly increase the long-term threat posed by the Sandinista consolidation depicted in NIE 83.3-85. Both our friends in the region and our own national security interests are placed at greater risk as a consequence of this extra-hemispheric involvement in Nicaragua. It, thus, appears that two companion pieces to NIE 83.3-85 should be developed on a priority basis:

- A Special National Intelligence Estimate (SNIE) on Nicaraguan support for regional subversion/insurgency. Details for what should be included in such an estimate are attached at Tab A.
- A SNIE which provides a "snapshot" of support which has been furnished and which is currently being provided to the Sandinistas by the USSR, Cuba, and other bloc/radical states and organizations. This estimate should be followed with bi-weekly reports in an established format so that trend lines are readily visible. Items for inclusion in this second SNIE and a proffered format for periodic reports are at Tab B. (S)

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If at all possible, both estimates should be available by March 1, 1985. Update reports on external support to the Sandinistas should be forwarded on the 15th and 30th of each month thereafter. Since such a regular reporting requirement will consume considerable effort, this tasking will be re-evaluated on June 1, 1985 and each month thereafter to determine the desirability of continuing. (S)



Robert C. McFarlane

cc: The Honorable George P. Shultz  
The Secretary of State

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
The Secretary of Defense

General John W. Vessey, Jr.  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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